

Message Text

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ACTION AID-59

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9997
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
AMEMBASSY SANA

UNCLAS KUWAIT 0437

DEPT PASS US BUREAU OF THE CENSUS

STATE FOR NEA/ARP

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAID
SUBJECT: U.S. CENSUS BUREAU REIMBURSABLE ASSISTANCE TO
DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

REF: STATE 001821

1. KUWAIT'S BUREAU OF THE CENSUS IS RELATIVELY SOPHISTICATED AND WELL ESTABLISHED. OVER THE PAST TWENTY YEARS KUWAIT HAS CARRIED OUT A REGULAR FIVE YEAR CENSUS, MOST RECENTLY IN 1975. IT HAS ALSO CONDUCTED INTERIM SPECIAL PURPOSE CENSUSES BETWEEN REGULAR 5 YEAR CENSUSES.

2. EMBOFFS CALLED ON MUSAED AL-OMAIM, COMPTROLLER OF THE CENSUS, TO DISCUSS KUWAITI INTEREST IN REIMBURSABLE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE BY BUCEN. AL-OMAIM
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EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR BUCEN PROGRAMS. HE NOTED THAT 8 KUWAITIS HAVE GONE THROUGH BUCEN INTERNATIONAL STATISTICAL PROGRAM CENTER, HE HIMSELF HAVING SPENT 16 MONTHS THERE. IN ADDITION, HIS OFFICE HAS HAD HELP FROM UNDP EXPERTS IN PAST AND PRESENTLY EMPLOYS AN EGYPTIAN EXPERT WITH WHOM IT IS QUITE SATISFIED. AL-OMAIM SAID HIS OFFICE NEEDED NO ADDITIONAL TECHNICAL

ASSISTANCE. GIVEN HIS FAMILIARITY WITH BUCEN PROGRAMS, AL-OMAIM FELT THERE WAS NO NEED FOR ANY SPECIAL BUCEN TEAM TO VISIT KUWAIT, AS HE COULD EASILY REQUEST ANY BUCEN ASSISTANCE SHOULD THE NEED ARISE.

3. REFTEL RAISES POSSIBILITY OF BUCEN TEAM VISIT TO NUMBER OF MINISTRIES (COMMERCE, LABOR, HEALTH, ETC.). WHILE WE APPRECIATE OFFER, WE SHOULD POINT OUT THAT GOK HAS HAD OVER 15 YEARS EXPERIENCE IN OBTAINING REIMBURSABLE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ON ITS OWN. KUWAITIS CONSIDER THEMSELVES KNOWLEDGEABLE AND SOPHISTICATED REGARDING PROCUREMENT OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, AND IN OUR EXPERIENCE ACTIVITY DESIGNED TO PROMOTE THEIR ACCEPTANCE OF PARTICULAR SOURCES OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE HAS NOT BEEN WELCOME. ALSO GOK AND LOCAL PRIVATE BUSINESSES HAVE INVESTED HEAVILY IN COMPUTERIZATION FOR NEARLY A DECADE AND GOVERNMENT IS IN THE MIDST OF PLACING ALL ITODLM AND UPGRADING ITS ALREADY RELATIVELY SOPHISTICATED USE OF COMPUTERS.

4. GIVEN ABOVE, WE RECOMMEND THAT BUCEN TEAM NOT VISIT KUWAIT. OFFER, HOWEVER, IS APPRECIATED. WE KEEP IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH VARIOUS KUWAITI OFFICES WHICH MIGHT AT SOME TIME FIND NEED FOR BUCEN ASSISTANCE. SHOULD THIS OCCUR, WE WILL OF COURSE INFORM DEPT. AND BUCEN PROMPTLY.

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MAESTRONE

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NNN

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